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Task Force on Shared Governance

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Report and Recommendations from Senate Task Force on Shared Governance

Submitted by Jill Lockwood

4/24/2003

Jill Lockwood, chair of the Task Force on Shared Governance formed in Fall '01, would be reporting, after which the Task Force would be discharged and its recommendations passed to Faculty Welfare for consideration and, Allen hoped, brought to the floor in June. Dudley (CLASS), chair of that committee, listed several good reasons that Allen was being overly optimistic re: a June consummation. Clara Krug (CLASS), a member of the Task Force, noted they had met with the Provost and found that the Faculty Handbook was already in press, so any approved recommendations couldn't go in this year anyway, except on the web. Allen noted June would be a busy meeting anyway and urged Senators to attend (or nail down alternates) so we would have a quorum.

Report and Recommendations from Jill Lockwood, Senate Task Force on Shared Governance Lockwood (COBA) noted the report is posted on the web. She emphasized that it was not the intent of the Task Force to challenge the authority of the Board of Regents. So what we are asking for has nothing to do with challenging the legislative authority of the Board of Regents, nor to challenge federal policies with respect to hiring, nor to challenge the authority of any dean or any chair. What the recommendations seek is a role for the faculty with respect to, and not limited to, hiring, annual evaluation, pre-tenure review, post-tenure review, promotion, evaluation, establishment of committees, and evaluation of administrators. 1) To the extent that there are policies with respect to any of these items, they would like these policies to be 1) in writing, 2) readily available to the faculty. Faculty should not have to go and ask for a college policy on post-tenure review or promotion and tenure and be asked, "Why do you want it and what are going to do with it?" Such policies ought to be just as available as the faculty directory. 2) The written documents would ensure not only 1) compliance with University policies, Board of Regents' policies, but also 2) that these policies are being maintained consistently in a unit. There is no intent to say any unit must do it this way or that way. It is for that unit to decide. For example, in the College of Business, there are no policies in individual departments. The departments follow the Bylaws established by the college. But many departments have written policies and they've never been really looked at recently to determine whether they are still in compliance with the University policies that have been passed in the last couple of years. It is incumbent upon the administrators within any unit that has departmental policies to review them. However, the Task Force advocates an open dialogue and a role for faculty re: formulating such policies.

Steve Jenkins (COE, member of the Task Force) noted the Task Force had pursued two sets of data: an inventory of governance-related documents by department and by college, and a survey to get faculty perceptions of shared governance. Lockwood (COBA) noted they had met with the Provost and suggestions from that meeting would be forwarded to the Faculty Welfare Committee.

Cyr (CLASS) wondered why the Task Force had not looked at documents from the College of Health and Human Services. Lockwood said the CHHS member of the Task Force attended only one meeting, and they relied on unit representatives to gather documents. Lockwood had, however, personally gone to CHHS to gather the surveys; hence, the Task Force recommendations are still valid. She noted other problems re:

document collection: In one unit, it was like "asking to look in their sock drawer." In another, when one copy was lost, they were told they couldn't have another. She suggested faculty should not have to beg for copies of policies by which they are judged.

Allen (CLASS, Senate Moderator) moved the Task Force be thanked for its fine work and discharged; seconded and approved. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Faculty Welfare Committee for consideration.